



Key to the Symbols of Astrology

The Planets – Parts of You

☉	The Sun —your center, the heart or core of you, the seat of your creativity
☾	The Moon —your inner child, the emotional and intuitive side of you
☿	Mercury —the thinker in you: your style of learning and communicating
♀	Venus —the lover in you, your romantic and magnetic side, your inner feminine
♂	Mars —the action hero in you, the warrior and pioneer, your inner masculine
♁	Ceres —your body, your grounding, your relationship with food, money & security
♁	Pallas-Athene —the wise one & strategist in you, your balance of softness & strength
♁	Juno —the marrying side of you, the side that manages people, the matchmaker
♁	Vesta —the side of you that focuses your energy and channels it, the vessel
♃	Jupiter —the philosopher in you, the side that learns, grows and seeks meaning
♄	Saturn —the elder in you, your career, that which you fear and must achieve
♄	Chiron —the wounded place in you that drives you to evolve and to heal others
♅	Uranus —the rebel or revolutionary in you, the experimenter and innovator
♆	Neptune —the dreamer and visionary in you, your imaginative, spiritual side
♇	Pluto —your instincts, dark side, shadow, the side of you that wants control

The Signs – Ways the Planets Express Themselves

♈	Aries —strong, forceful, dynamic, fierce, fully alive, honest, direct, naïve, impulsive
♉	Taurus —slow, deliberate, sensible, practical, sensory, consistent, materialistic
♊	Gemini —intelligent, articulate, clever, inconsistent, nerdy, communicative, wordy
♋	Cancer —sensitive, emotional, nurturing, caring, feeling, intuitive, codependent
♌	Leo —creative, expressive, flashy, self-centered, larger-than-life, radiant, playful
♍	Virgo —analytical, detail-oriented, perfectionistic, judging, discriminating, artisanal
♎	Libra —lovely, sweet, kind, diplomatic, balancing, compromising, argumentative, fair
♏	Scorpio —intense, controlling, passionate, sensitive, deep, vulnerable, sexual, raw
♐	Sagittarius —philosophical, expansive, upbeat, cheerful, overbearing, adventurous
♑	Capricorn —hard-working, serious, organizing, goal-oriented, ambitious, on track
♒	Aquarius —rebellious, reactive, experimental, abstract, social, networked, techie
♓	Pisces —dreamy, visionary, imaginative, escapist, universal, compassionate, empathic

The Nodes of the Moon—Life Purpose and Destiny Path

- ♋ South Node—familiar turf; comfort zone; past lives, karma; backward path to stagnation
- ♌ North Node—new, risky territory; pro-evolutionary path; exhilarating pursuit of purpose

The Houses—Arenas of Life Where the Planets Do Their Thing

- First House—house of identity, parts of you placed here are on display, perceivable by others
- Second House—house of security, arena of finances, the realm of the senses, food and money
- Third House—house of communication, learning, early education, your locale and its people
- Fourth House—house of family, domestic life, the home you came from, the home you create
- Fifth House—house of creation, recreation and procreation; fun, pleasure, play, also children
- Sixth House—house of work, health, service, personal organization and efficiency systems
- Seventh House—house of relationship, partnerships of all kinds (romantic or business)
- Eighth House—house of sharing, merging, sex, death, transformation and metamorphosis
- Ninth House—house of travel, education, philosophy, growth, expansion, your worldview
- Tenth House—house of career and public image, your goals and aspirations, your reputation
- Eleventh House—house of friends, networks, tribe, ideologies; laboratory of experimentation
- Twelfth House—house of dreams, fantasy, imagination, family karma, collective unconscious

The Aspects—Scripts the Characters Are Acting Out

- ♋ Conjunction—these parts of you must work together despite their differences
- ✳ Sextile—these parts of you enjoy and stimulate each other, creating opportunity
- ◻ Square—these parts of you obstruct each other, create friction and force self-awareness
- △ Trine—these parts of you support, help and validate each other, giving you easy talents
- ⚡ Quincunx—these parts sabotage each other, making you anxious or compulsive
- ♋ Opposition—these parts of you are antagonists, locked in a dualistic tug of war

The Angles—Your Four Faces

- Asc. = Ascendant/Rising—your surface, your presentation, your 1-on-1 face
- MC = Midheaven—your public face, reputation, career image, aspirational persona
- IC = Nadir—your private face, your home face, your inner and private self
- Desc. = Descendant—the face of the Beloved you look for in others to complete yourself

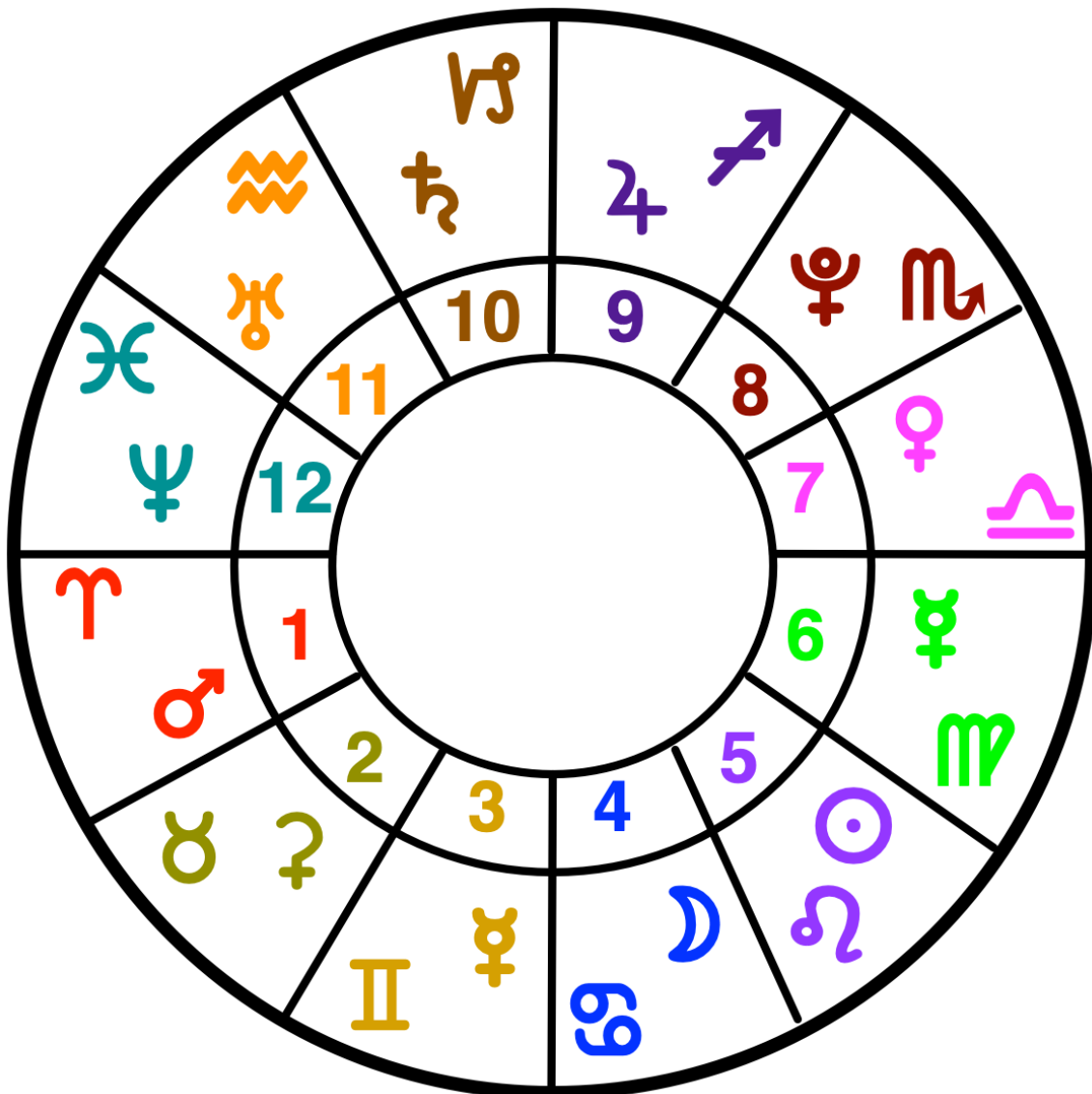
The Signs in the Four Elements and the Three Qualities

- The 3 Fire signs—Aries, Leo and Sagittarius: active, inspired, enthusiastic, overbearing
- The 3 Earth signs—Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn: hardworking, grounded, structured, solid
- The 3 Air signs—Gemini, Libra and Aquarius: intellectual, cerebral, abstract, distant
- The 3 Water signs—Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces: emotional, intuitive, sensitive, bonding
- The 4 Cardinal signs—Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn: initiatory, motivating; drives energy
- The 4 Fixed signs—Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius: thorough, consistent; consolidates energy
- The 4 Mutable signs—Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces: flexible, scattered; disperses energy

All the Planets at Home

Each planet has a sign it is most comfortable in and a house it belongs with. Astrologers say the planet “rules” that sign and house or that it is “at home” there. In the following diagram, you’ll find the symbol for each **planet** inside the **house** it rules, along with the **sign** it rules. Astrologers call this the “natural chart.” Mercury is listed twice because it rules two signs instead of just one. Ceres, largest of the asteroids and Earth Mother archetype, is listed as ruler of Taurus.

The Natural Chart



One Analogy That Puts It All Together: Your Astrological Chart as the Theater of Your Life

Your chart may seem strange at first, and filled with mysterious symbols, but each symbol shown, and the exact placement of it, reveals worlds of information about your personality. Look at the chart as if it's a theater, playing the grand drama of your life. In it, we discover characters (the **planets**), the costumes they are wearing (the zodiac **signs**, which the planets are placed in) and scenery or settings (the **houses** the planets occupy).

Each character has a costume that naturally belongs to it and a setting it belongs in, and each character also has costumes that don't fit very well and settings that are naturally uncomfortable. In astrology, this is called "rulership," so we say that "Mars rules Aries and the First House" because Aries is the sign Mars rules and the First House is Mars' house. In general, a planet is very comfortable when placed in its own sign or house, which it 'rules.'

Every chart is a complex and interesting mix of planets, signs and houses. It's as if the director suddenly called out "Places, everyone!" and the characters made a mad dash for the costume room, throwing on whatever they could find, then ran to the stage and froze for the curtain in whatever setting they happened to find themselves.

There's one more layer to it, and it's that the planets / characters have relationships with each other. These relationships act as scripts and cause the characters to relate with each other in particular ways, naturally tending to either help or interfere with each other's agendas. These 'scripts' are called the **aspects**. Put the whole drama together and you have a fascinating portrait of a human being!

Resources

*...to help you find out a lot more about your chart, your life
and your destiny, using astrology—the very best
personality inventory and self-discovery tool in existence*

This [page on Pandora Astrology's blog](#) lets you cast your chart online for free.

This [Chart Introduction video](#) on Pandora's YouTube channel shows the pieces of an astrology chart and how they fit together into a coherent picture of a personality.

[Pandora's Astrology blog](#) contains hundreds of free articles about things in your chart.

Pandora's audio and video [recordings](#) offer much deeper information about your love, career and money signs, at a low cost.

When research isn't enough and you're ready to learn more about your own chart from the wisdom of a dedicated professional, [Pandora Astrology offers readings](#).

[Pandora Astrology offers classes](#) you can do as self-study or in small-group online classes with a teacher who loves astrology and loves teaching it.

And [Pandora Astrology's monthly horoscopes](#) help you keep in touch with the stars.

When you're ready for advanced chart calculations, I recommend <http://astro-seek.com>.

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